

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 SNM-02

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10

TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 OIC-04 AGR-20

SS-20 L-03 EB-11 DRC-01 /197 W
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R 231855Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8030

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY/CANBERRA 284

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USUN NEW YROK 1586

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13652

DEA FOR EN, ED, EO, IG, & IGI. ANKARA PASS DEA/BRIGGS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: DRUG ABUSE ITEM AT 23RD CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING OF COLOMBO PLAN

REF: A) STATE 223001 B) COLOMBO 2834

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1. EMBOFF REVIEWED GOI PREPARATIONS FOR DISCUSSION OF NARCOTIC

ITEM AT 23RD COLOMBO PLAN CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH R.K. THAWANI, UNDERSECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE. INDIANS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH ECONOMIC ITEMS ON WELLINGTON AGENDA, AND DELEGATES HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FOCUS ON THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE DRUG ADVISOR. GOI DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY JOINT SECRETARY HIREMATH OF THE ECONOMIC AFFAIRS SECTION, MINISTRY OF FINANCE WITH DEIRECTOR S. SANTHI AND DEPUTY ECONOMIC ADVISOR K.C. SHARMA (BOTH OF FINANCE MINISTRY) AS HIS ALTERNATES.

2. SINCE INDIA IS ALMOST THE ONLY LEGAL PRODUCER OF OPIUM, SECTIONS OF THE DRUG ADVISOR'S PROGRAM WHICH CONCERN ELEIMNATION OF ILLEGAL PRODUCTION AND CROP SUBSTITUTION, ARE NOT APPLICABLE TO INDIA. GOI CLAIMS (AND EMBASSY CONCURS THAT THERE IS VERY LITTLE ILLICIT POPPY CUTLIVATION IN INDIA AND WHAT INDIAN OPIUM IS AVAILABLE IN ILLICIT CHANNELS IS OBTAIN FROM LEGALLY GROWN POPPIES. THAWANI STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOI DOES NOT CONSIDER THE COLOMBO PLAN SEMINAR AS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSING CONTROLS ON LEGAL OPIUM PRODUCTION, PREFERRING TO CONSIDER THE SUBJECT EXCLUSIVELY AT THE 1974 CND SESSION. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI DELEGATION WILL REFUSE TO DISCUSS CONTROL ISSUE AT WELLINGTON, AND WILL PROBABLY DENY STATEMENTS BY OTHER COLOMBO PLAN NATIONS THAT OPIUM IS ENTERING INTERNATIONAL MARKET FROM HERE (REF B).

3. SECTIONS OF REPORT WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO GOI DELEGATION CONCERN DRUG REHABILITATION PROGRAMS AND REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SEMINARS. CERTAIN GOI OFFICIALS HAVE PRIVATELY CALLED FOR MORE GOVERNMENT EMPHASIS ON ADDICT REHABILITATION ALTHOUGH GOI DOES NOT PUBLICLY HIGHLIGHT THIS PROBLEM. RECENT GOI PARTICIPATION AT TOKYO DRUG ENFORCEMENT SEMINAR INDICATES INDIAN INTEREST IN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND SOME TRAINING OF POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS MAY BE POSSILE IF PRESENTED UNDER THE GUISE OF SEMINARS. MOYNIHAN

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